

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A hybrid switch in a line, comprising:
  - a first switching module for switching voltages and currents and for incurring switching losses; and
  - a second switching module for conducting current and for incurring conduction losses,

said first and second switching modules being connected electrically in parallel, and said switching modules being respectively controllable to be in one of an open non-conducting off state and a closed conducting state, at least one said switching module having solid state construction.
2. (original) The hybrid switch as in claim 1, wherein at least one of said modules includes a MOSFET.
3. (currently amended) The hybrid switch as in claim 1, wherein at least one of said first module and said second module is chosen from the group consisting of IGBTs, IGCTs, thyristors, and diodes.
4. (currently amended) The hybrid switch as in claim 1, further comprising a control circuit for switching respectively said first module and said second module on and off, each module in a predetermined sequence and for predetermined intervals.
5. (original) The hybrid switch as in claim 1, wherein at least one of said first module and said second module is cryogenically cooled.

6. (original) The hybrid switch as in claim 4, wherein said control circuit for switching said first module and said second module on and off is cryogenically cooled.
7. (original) The hybrid switch as in claim 1, wherein at least two said second modules used for conducting currents are connected in parallel.
8. (original) The hybrid switch as in claim 1, wherein at least two said second modules used for conducting currents are connected in series.
9. (original) The hybrid switch as in claim 1, wherein at least two said first modules used for switching voltages and currents are connected in parallel.
10. (currently amended) The hybrid switch as in claim 1, wherein at least two said first modules used for switching voltages and currents are connected in series.
11. (currently amended) The hybrid switch as in claim 4, wherein said control circuit operates said switching modules to (a) pass load current through said second module while bypassing said first module, and to switch off said load current through said second module, said control circuit (b) turns said second module to said open off state so as to divert said load current to said first module, and then (c) turns said first module to the its open off state.
12. (original) The hybrid switch as in claim 2, wherein at least one of said first module and said second module is cryogenically cooled.
13. (currently amended) The hybrid switch as in claim 2, further comprising a control circuit for switching respectively said first module and said second module on and off, each module in a predetermined sequence and for predetermined intervals.

14. (currently amended) The hybrid switch as in claim 13, wherein said control circuit operates said switching modules to (a) pass load current through said second module while bypassing said first module, and to switch off said load current through said second module, said control circuit (b) turns said second module to said open off state so as to divert said load current to said first module, and then (c) turns said first module to the its open off state.

15. (original) The hybrid switch as in claim 14, wherein at least said second module is cryogenically cooled to reduce conduction losses.

16. (original) The hybrid switch as in claim 5, further comprising a refrigeration unit cryogenically cooling said at least one module.

17. (original) The hybrid switch as in claim 12, further comprising a refrigeration unit cryogenically cooling said at least one module.

18. (original) The hybrid switch as in claim 16, wherein at least said second module is cryogenically cooled to reduce conduction losses.

19. (original) The hybrid switch as in claim 14, wherein at least said first module is cryogenically cooled to reduce switching time.

20. (original) The hybrid switch as in claim 16, wherein at least said first module is cryogenically cooled to reduce switching time.

21. (original) The hybrid switch as in claim 7, wherein at least another two said second modules used for conducting currents are connected in series.